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Alberta NORTH



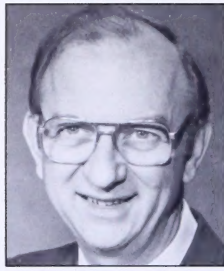
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Vol. 1, No. 2

February, 1988

Alberta North Contents



Dear Reader:

We know you are going to enjoy this second issue of *Alberta North* just as much as the first one. Again, we have tried to bring you a broad sample of northern life.

Since two northern communities are celebrating 200 years of existence in 1988, we thought you would be interested in learning about them. Besides, we are very proud to be able to say that Alberta began in the North.

Yes. Alberta did begin here and today there is evidence of progress and growth in so many parts of the North. It is in a northern community, for example, that Canada's most modern aircraft are based, and we have a story about that. It is in a northern community that one of the most technologically advanced distance education systems in North America is located, and we write about that too.

We also write about some interesting northern people. They are the sort of people who have helped to make our country strong.

If you have ideas for more stories, please take the time to let us know. We will be only too glad to write those stories and publish them in some future issue.

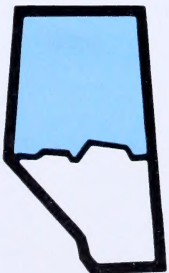
We very much want this little magazine to be about the things and people that interest you, so it is important that you share your thoughts about *Alberta North* with us. That's the only way we will know what you want us to be and the only way we can meet your needs.

But, most important of all, we want you to learn to know and love Alberta's North so that you will be proud to be a northerner yourself. I know that I'm proud to be one.

Bob Elliott, MLA
Chairman

Northern Alberta Development Council

ALBERTA NORTH is published by the Northern Alberta Development Council and is distributed free for the use of junior high schools and the general public in Alberta.



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ISSN 0835-7404

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Older than Alberta by 117 Years!

Alberta became Alberta in 1905. But long before that, aboriginal people hunted this land and fished its many streams; explorers traveled its territories and mapped its forests and rivers; settlers lived here. In fact, the first white settlements in Alberta were begun in 1788 — 117 years before the province was born!

Alberta's two oldest communities, Fort Chipewyan and Fort Vermilion are celebrating their Bicentennials this year.

Fort Chipewyan

Far to the northeast on your map, you will find Fort Chipewyan, the oldest continuously settled community in Alberta. Even today, the usual way to get there is by air or water. In winter, an ice road crosses frozen Lake Athabasca.

The adventurer, Peter Pond, arrived there by canoe in 1775. He built the first house in Alberta, planted the first garden, and set up a trading post in 1778. Ten years later, his post was re-established by Roderick Mackenzie, then moved to where Fort Chipewyan now stands about 1798.

As it celebrates its 200th birthday, Fort Chipewyan is far from the primitive settlement it was then. Isolated as it may be, it has modern conveniences like electricity, running water and a paved air strip. There is industry too.

The town sits on the edge of the Canadian Shield and soon the red granite there will be quarried and used throughout Alberta for buildings. Its tourism industry is growing too as more and more people discover the wildlife and beauty of the Athabasca Delta and Wood Buffalo National Park.

But, do you know that you can still get the feel of what it must have been like back in the fur trade days? The modern new school was built to resemble a fort. It even has palisades (a high fence of stakes). You will still find a Hudson's Bay store; the old mission churches are still in use; and the Delta and beautiful Shield country are as they were then.

Fort Vermilion

On the Peace River, about 400 km west of Fort Chipewyan by water, another northern town is also 200 years old. Fort Vermilion.

In 1788, Charles Boyer of the North-West Company, an assistant to Alexander Mackenzie, built a trading post just below today's Fort Vermilion. It was known as Boyer's Post or "Old Establishment."

Fort Vermilion is the place "where Alberta began," for it was here that commerce, industry and the fur trade were also first established in Alberta. In fact, when Alberta became a province, its northern boundary was determined because of Fort Vermilion's thriving presence.

Fifty years after Boyer, the first settlers arrived by river. In 1876, wheat grown there won first prize at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. Ever since, the area has been known for farming, forestry and trapping.

Modern Fort Vermilion is easily accessible by paved highway, and has all the modern amenities including a new

hospital and a newspaper. One of the most northerly agricultural experimental stations is located in the community. Fishing and hunting help to attract tourists but many come because you can still canoe down the Peace just as the fur traders did. The old Hudson's Bay factor's house still stands there, and other historic homes have been preserved and restored. As in Fort Chipewyan, it is still possible in Fort Vermilion to get in touch with Alberta's past.



(Above) Fort Chipewyan's modern school looks exactly like a fort.

(Below) Fort Vermilion as it looks today.





Negative Reaction Photo.

Euphemia (Betty) McNaught and friend.

You have heard of Canada's famous "Group of Seven" painters who were so influential in defining Canada's landscape. But did you know that a student of theirs lives in Beaverlodge in northern Alberta?

Betty (Euphemia) McNaught, who graduated from the Ontario College of Art in 1929, studied there under J.E.H. MacDonald and Arthur Lismer and

has recently had a book of her work published.

She said that even as a young painter, she was a "fan of their style" and that her own style has been definitely influenced by them.

Although she taught in Calgary and elsewhere in Alberta, Beaverlodge has been home for most of her life. She still lives on part of the family farm — a farm that has never left McNaught possession since it was homesteaded in 1912.

McNaught was born in Glenmorris, Ontario and when her family came to the Beaverlodge area, they walked the Edson Trail. This route is infamous for its difficult terrain.

She attended a one-room rural school that housed eight grades, then went on to high school in Lake Saskatoon and Grande Prairie.

Today, she is part of an art club of about 20 members whose current in-

terest is in painting the Hinton Trail, the first trail leading into Beaverlodge. She said the project started two years ago but was shelved when one member died. However, they are reviving it, and when it is complete it will form an impressive exhibition.

"The group goes sketching as soon as the snow goes," she said.

Laughingly, McNaught said that she had "ruined" her Christmas holidays, "because I paint and print my own Christmas cards." She does this with linoleum blocks and said that this last year she had made 150 cards for her long list of friends.

Clearly, this energetic lady has no thoughts of retiring and taking life easy. "People like me can't retire. There doesn't seem to be a work deadline for us."

Alberta North wishes this bright light of Beaverlodge many more years of shining.

Boat-BUILDER on the Athabasca River — John Gullion

The son of a man who was brought out from Scotland's Orkney Islands to build York Boats for the Hudson's Bay Company, John Gullion was the first settler on the Athabasca Trail.

His homestead was located at about Mile 50 on the Trail, just east of where

the village of Clyde now stands. John Gullion was only 15 years old in 1886 when he settled there.

Although he had filed on a homestead claim, he still followed in his father's footsteps and was well-known as a freighter and riverboat captain. He piloted and built steamboats on the Athabasca and Peace Rivers and knew and loved the world of river-boating as well as anyone in the North. Remember, these were the days when the rivers were the highways.

Gullion was also in demand as an expert North West Mounted Police guide.

He married Margaret Anne Bahan when she was 15 years old and he was 18. They had 10 children but the oldest, a boy, died in infancy. His daughter Alice Gilliland who lives in Berwyn, said her older sister was the first child to be baptized in the Anglican Church in Athabasca.

Gullion came to Fort Vermilion in 1907 where he lived for five years while he continued to work on the river. He used to say that the Indians always knew by way of "moccasin telegraph" when the boats would be arriving in Peace River Crossing (Peace River town) and would congregate there and hold a "Muchigan" (gathering and dance).

He enjoyed a good time himself and used to love to do the Red River Jig. It was said that he was as light as a feather when he danced.

John Gullion, who had been born in Jasper House, near where the present day village of Jasper now stands, died in Peace River Crossing in the summer of 1915.

Today, Gullion School, built about 1914, sits on the site of his homestead. It is the only one-room school left on the Athabasca Trail.

(*Alberta North* will take you over the famous trails of the North in a future issue.)



ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA, Photo Collection B.2865.

This Hudson's Bay Steamer, photographed in Athabasca about 1880, is the kind of boat built and piloted by John Gullion.

Learning by Long Distance

Approximately 10,000 students, from Inuvik in the North West Territories to St. John's, Newfoundland, are students at Alberta's famous university without classrooms, Athabasca University.

To become a student at Athabasca, you must be 18 years old and live in Canada. You do not need a high school diploma. This doesn't mean you will get "Mickey Mouse" courses. Far from it. The standards are high and the program is tough. Moreover, you are on your own to a large extent.

You receive a "print-based" package when you enrol. This includes textbooks, lesson guides, workbooks, etc. When you need help, or encouragement, or want to ask a question, you call your tutor at the university by telephone. About 12 seminars a year are teleconferenced. That is, a tutor teaches a lesson and students, who are gathered in one of the teleconference centres set up in 20 different areas, then have a question-and-answer session with the tutor.

The advantages of a distance-education university are that you don't have

to leave home; it is cheaper because you do live at home; and it cuts through isolation barriers. If you have access to a phone, you have access to Athabasca University. Such a system is ideal not only for those in remote areas but also for shut-ins.

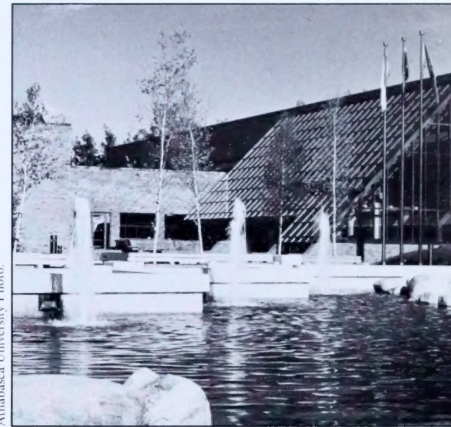
There are disadvantages (or drawbacks) too. Very much of the success of distance education depends on the commitment and hard work of the student who does not have daily support from the classroom system or from fellow classmates. The student is far from the library and the lab. He or she also misses all the fellowship and fun connected with most universities.

It is plain that it takes a large amount of dedication to succeed when you have to do so much alone, but Athabasca University has many success stories to tell.

What can you take at Athabasca University? Three degree programs — Bachelor of Administration, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of General Studies. Also: certificates in Administration and Public Administration. You can take

most of your Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing and other science programs, then transfer credits to other universities to finish off the compulsory laboratory courses.

Modelled upon Britain's Open University, Athabasca University was founded in 1972 and began offering degrees in 1977.



The beautiful Campus of Athabasca University.

A Dene Tha' Legend: How the Squirrel Scorched His Fur

One winter, a long time ago, it grew very, very cold. The animals were not able to keep warm. Finally they became so cold that they crept into a tipi and huddled around the fire.

Around the inside walls of the tipi were stored numerous caribou skin bags containing many different things. The Four Winds were stowed each in a separate bag. In another bag was Cough; in another was Sneezes; and so it went to the end of the row of bags.

At last the squirrel was the first to complain. "It is so cold," he said, "that we should bring South Wind out of her bag or we shall all freeze."

"If you are that cold," grumbled the bear, who, himself, had been so cold that he could not sleep, "then you look for South Wind."

This remark, although really an insult,

was enough to spur the squirrel into action. Immediately he began to turn the bags over. "Aw," he sighed in relief, as he opened one bag, "at last I have found her!" He hugged the bag close so that he might be the first one to be warmed but out of the bag leaped, not South Wind, but Cough and the little squirrel was the first one to catch it.

Harder and harder he coughed until at last he cried out again to the other animals, "If you don't find South Wind to warm me up then I shall surely die of this cough."

The other animals began to search frantically among the bags for South Wind. Meanwhile, the little squirrel, seeing the fire circle vacant, moved closer and closer to the flames until he scorched the fur down his back. That is why even to this day the northern

squirrel still has a reddish streak down the centre of his back.

(This Indian Legend was collected by Eileen Hayward, and is reprinted from *Little Thumb* with her permission.)



Marsha Hayward drawing from Little Thumb



Canada's CF-18 Hornet in flight.

Canadian Armed Forces Photo.

Faster Than A Speeding Bullet

Have you ever watched the Snowbirds or the Sky Hawks? They are two of the teams of exciting airshow performers that fly for the Canadian Forces.

If you have seen them and were thrilled by the flyers and the things they could do with their planes, just imagine the reaction you'll have when you see the CF-18 Hornet, Canada's newest fighter aircraft.

This beautiful plane can fly approximately 1,200 miles per hour, that's MACH 1.8, almost twice the speed of sound. The CF-18 is the craft which has replaced most of Canada's other fighter planes, and you can now see it at airshows in Alberta and elsewhere. Many people consider the CF-18 to be the last word in high-tech fighter aircraft.

All Albertans should be proud of the fact that a northern Alberta place — Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake — is the main home of the CF-18 and its pilots, for CFB Cold Lake is the biggest and busiest fighter aircraft base serving the Canadian Forces.

This has made the base a busy place indeed, for long before CF-18 came on

the scene, CFB Cold Lake was a well-known training site. In fact, the Royal Canadian Air Force chose the Cold Lake area for a major base way back in 1952, because of the availability of land for a 10 000 km² air weapons range.

The only flight testing unit for Canada's Department of National Defense is located at CFB Cold Lake. Also, just seven kilometres away, a NORAD early warning site — 42 Radar Squadron — can be found.

But the CF-18 program is the one which is doing the most to change the way CFB Cold Lake operates. The CF-18 is a computerized aircraft. This means that highly specialized staff are required to maintain it as well as to fly it. About 2,000 technicians and 50 fighter pilots are trained every year on the CF-18 and the CF-5 aircraft.

This year, a third CF-18 Squadron will be formed at Cold Lake. The base will then have more CF-18s than any other Canadian Forces base in the world. Other CF-18s are based in West Germany and in Quebec.

About 3,000 armed forces members will work out of CFB Cold Lake when the new squadron is in place. Besides that, the families of these people will also live in the area as well as the more than 500 civilians who depend on the Canadian Forces for their own occupations. This makes CFB Cold Lake important not only for its military purpose but also for the economic benefit it brings to the community.

You would probably like to visit the Canadian Forces Base at Cold Lake. Or maybe you would like to join the Canadian Forces and perhaps fly a CF-18 some day.

It is difficult to arrange a tour of the Base, but there is lots of information available to help you select a career in the armed forces if that is your ambition. Such careers are open to both men and women.

Even though you are not allowed to drop in for a visit to CFB Cold Lake, remember that Air Shows in various parts of the province feature the CF-18 Hornet.

The UFO That Found St. Paul

They had been circling Earth for some time, not really wanting to set down there because previous experience had shown Earth to be a hostile planet.

Sklar remembered the time he'd landed on a long broad paved strip and almost been run down by strange wheeled landcraft. Then an Earthling in a vehicle with flashing lights had shot at him with a primitive projectile weapon.

Another time, he and Ekiril had found a remote lake surrounded by trees (Strange trees. They were green.) and they'd splashed down, certain no one inhabited the area. But a big furry Earthling had chased them and had almost upset the Luminary Ship before they'd managed to get aloft again.

No. Sklar and Ekiril would have preferred to land on some other planet. But they really had no choice. The Luminary Ship's automatic fuel transfer system had failed and a transfer absolutely had to be made from the auxiliary to the operating tanks — or they'd never make it home to Empyrian.

Ekiril nosed the ship carefully out of the stratosphere and into the troposphere. He set her on moderate cruise-speed and the two settled at the terrascanners to look for a suitable place to put down.

"There are many flat strips that would be perfect for landing," Sklar said at last, "but they all have those landcraft we encountered before, rushing back and forth on their surface."

"Those strips are unsafe," Ekiril agreed. "And in the watered areas we might meet another of the hairy Earthlings. I'd hate to meet one of those again. The one we ran into before wasn't very interested in communicating peacefully."

They made another swift circuit of the Earth.

"What's that down there?" Sklar asked suddenly.

"Where?"

"Well, we've passed it now. Reverse, and then sweep slowly over the area we just flew above."

Ekiril slowed the Luminary Ship to glidespeed and moved gently backward.

"There!" Sklar exclaimed. "Directly below. It's a round surface with banners flying — a perfect spot to put down."

Floating in hoverspeed above Earth, the two Empyrianites looked down. They saw a concrete pad built on a central stem and edged by a low wall embossed with strange geometric figures. Many flags flew from this structure which was situated in what looked to be a viewing area of some kind, for there were rows of tiered benches and an open field.

They could see no Earthlings.



Travel Alberta Photo.

St. Paul's Centennial Project — a landing pad for UFOs.

"Should we chance it?" Ekiril asked.

"We have to land somewhere," Sklar replied.

Ekiril nodded. Then he pushed the de-escalate pedal and the Luminary Ship began a leisurely vertical drop. They landed smoothly right in the middle of the pad.

The two were underneath the Luminary Ship activating the fuel transfer when the Earthlings arrived. Hundreds of them, cheering, waving, and carrying rudimentary picture-taking devices that still operated with flashes of light. A troop of musicians, laughing children, and people who looked to be dignitaries were in the vanguard of this procession.

"They look friendly," Sklar whispered uneasily.

They were friendly. They were the people of St. Paul, Alberta, who, more than 20 years before had built a landing pad especially for ships from outer space. The Luminary Ship was the very first craft to land there, and everyone was delighted to see it.

After feasting and dancing and merrymaking, Sklar and Ekiril finally set out for home again. They left with warm feelings toward all Earthlings.

About This Page

This page - the inside back cover - of *Alberta North* is the readers' page.

We will be happy to print stories, poems, drawings, puzzles, photography, and so on, submitted by our readers. Just remember that what you submit must be original since there are laws that protect other people's work.

Submit your work along with your name, address, grade and school to:

The Editor, *Alberta North*, The Northern Development Branch, 2nd Floor, Provincial Building, 9621 - 96 Avenue, Peace River, Alberta T0H 2X0.

The best submissions will be published and all others will be returned.

Interesting Things About Interesting Things — A Trivia Quiz

1. What northern town is named for a former Alberta premier?
2. Cite two northern places with natural phenomena in their names.
3. What community won a prize in Philadelphia for its wheat, in 1876?
4. What is the origin of the name 'Grande Cache'?
5. How fast does a CF-18 fly?
6. If you decided to visit Fort Chipewyan, how would you get there?
7. Alberta has five national parks. Which one is in the North?
8. What northern village is famous for its salt production?
9. How much of Alberta lies north of Edmonton?
10. What is Alberta's most prominent land form east of the Rockies?
11. When did Alberta become a province?
12. When did Peter Pond arrive in the future province of Alberta?

(Answers on page 8)

Fun Time in the North

What's going on in the North this winter? Read on.

A dogsled race from **Fort McMurray** to **Fort Chipewyan** will take place February 23 - 26, and there's a big winter frolic at **Fort Chipewyan**, March 11 - 13, 'The Roderick Mackenzie Carnival.' This gala will feature skidoo races, a bonspiel and a fish derby.

Rocky Lake Broomball Tourney and Winter Sports Day, March 5, sounds like fun and so does the Wonderful Winter Festival at **High Level**, March 11 - 13. If you like music, **Fort Vermilion** plans a piano concert on April 22 and an Old Time Fiddlers Contest on the 23rd.

Chances are that you have NEVER been to a pig race. Did you know that there is such a race in **Peace River** right down the main street every winter? This year the big event takes place on March 19. Teams of two or three people urge their pigs (who are in harness) to the finish line.

In **Cold Lake**, the Winter Fun Fest features stock car racing on ice. That's right. They race the old junker cars on a track on the frozen lake. This is not a straight track (last year it was a figure 8) and things get very exciting when they race around the bends because they use ordinary tires. There is the odd collision of course and it's very noisy, but you wouldn't believe how much fun it is to watch.

This festival features Snow Golf, also on the lake; and there are hay rides and pancake breakfasts, a snow sculpture contest and skating on the lake.

If you want to enjoy **Cold Lake** when it really is cold, don't miss the Fun Fest, February 20 - 21.

School groups and families will also be interested in 'So You Think You're Fit Days' in **Beaverlodge**, February 21. Running, skating, skiing and snowshoeing teams will compete.

But you can really test your fitness skills at the Conservation Education Program run by Forestry, Lands and Wildlife at **Narrow Lake** near **Athabasca**.

At this hands-on training centre for survival, for wilderness and wildlife conservation, and for hunting safety skills, kids stay through a 3-day program

in lean-tos they've built themselves. Unfortunately, you can't just show up for this popular program without any forethought. It is aimed at groups registered in Hunter Education at school.

Don't Forget the Parks

At **Moonshine Lake Provincial Park** near **Spirit River**, a skating oval on the lake is lit at night for pleasure skating or pick-up hockey. Cross-country skiers and snow shoers will find 32 km of trails. Ice-fishing for rainbow trout is another attraction.

A small band of elk lives in the park and there are also several moose, so take your camera.

Gregoire Lake Provincial Park, south-east of **Fort McMurray**, has programs for teachers and families who wish to plan their own activities. A Learning Resource Manual helps you and suggests a wealth of things to do in the park in any season.

For example, there are ideas on how to learn about animal homes, how to find tracks, and how to identify and study things that grow in the northern boreal forest.

Just borrow a Discovery Pack and follow one of the self-guided activity programs. You will have loads of fun and learn a lot too. If you like birds, the Discovery Pack on Birds includes an identification book, a guide to the boreal forest, and even binoculars.

Waterfowl of all kinds, great blue herons, and pileated woodpeckers are among the birds that nest in Gregoire. While some are not there in winter of course, enough stay to make bird-watching worthwhile.

Also, you might see black bear, moose, mule deer and white-tailed deer. So it is a wonderful place to take your camera — or your sketch pad if you like to draw.

To borrow a Discovery Pack, call ahead to the Ranger at 334-2222.

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park on **Lesser Slave Lake** has an interpreter on staff to help you plan fun days in the park. There you can also take part in treasure hunts, sports clinics and even "Olympic" Games.

Forestry, Lands and Wildlife Photo.



Above: Hunter training students arrive at Narrow Lake.

Below: A snowshoe class at Young's Point.

Recreation and Parks Photo.



Answers to

Interesting Things About Interesting Things

1. Manning.
2. Chinook Valley; Sunset House; Rainbow Lake; Thunder Lake.
3. Fort Vermilion.
4. It was a place where trappers stored (cached) furs over the winter.
5. Almost twice the speed of sound; 1,200 miles per hour; MACH 1.8.
6. In winter you could drive to Fort Chipewyan on an ice road. Other times you would have to get there either by air or water.
7. Wood Buffalo National Park.
8. Lindbergh.
9. 60%.
10. The Swan Hills.
11. 1905.
12. 1775.